

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): In a method for measuring an alanine aminotransferase activity in a sample, said method comprising the steps of: bringing the sample into contact with L-alanine, 2-oxoglutaric acid, lactate dehydrogenase, and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide,

generating pyruvic acid and L-glutamic acid from L-alanine and 2-oxoglutaric acid as substrates by alanine aminotransferase,

changing pyruvic acid and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide to lactic acid and oxidized nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, and

measuring a decreased amount of reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide or an increased amount of oxidized nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide,

the improvement comprising bringing the sample into contact with L-alanine, 2-oxoglutaric acid, lactate dehydrogenase, and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide in the presence of a substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity, said substance being selected from the group consisting of oxamic acid, oxalic acid, oxalacetic acid, pyruvic acid, phosphoenolpyruvic acid, sodium dodecyl sulfate, lactic acid, and hydroxyglutaric

acid, and salts thereof, and the concentration of said substance in the measuring system being a concentration exhibiting the lactate dehydrogenase activity which does not affect the measurement of the alanine aminotransferase activity.

12. (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the concentration of said substance in the measuring system is a concentration exhibiting the lactate dehydrogenase activity which does not affect the measurement of the alanine aminotransferase activity.

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.

14. (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein a concentration of oxamic acid or a salt thereof is 0.005 to 5 mmol/L as a final concentration in a measuring system.

15. (previously presented): The method for measuring an alanine aminotransferase activity according to claim 11 or 12, wherein a concentration of lactate dehydrogenase is 100 U/L or more as a final concentration in a measuring system.

16. (currently amended): In a reagent for measuring an alanine aminotransferase activity in a sample, wherein said reagent comprises L-alanine, 2-oxoglutaric acid, lactate dehydrogenase, and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, and said measurement is carried out by:

bringing the sample into contact with L-alanine, 2-oxoglutaric acid, lactate dehydrogenase, and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide,

generating pyruvic acid and L-glutamic acid from L-alanine and 2-oxoglutaric acid as substrates by alanine aminotransferase,

changing pyruvic acid and reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide to lactic acid and oxidized nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, and

measuring a decreased amount of reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide or an increased amount of oxidized nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide,

the improvement comprising a substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity, said substance being selected from the group consisting of oxamic acid, oxalic acid, oxalacetic acid, pyruvic acid, phosphoenolpyruvic acid, sodium dodecyl sulfate, lactic acid, and hydroxyglutaric acid, and salts thereof, and the concentration of said substance in the measuring system being a concentration exhibiting the lactate dehydrogenase activity which does not affect the measurement of the alanine aminotransferase activity.

17. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 16, wherein the concentration of said substance in the measuring system is a concentration exhibiting the lactate

dehydrogenase activity which does not affect the measurement of the alanine aminotransferase activity.

18. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 16 or 17, which is a two reagent-component system, and contains the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity in either of a first reagent-component or a second reagent-component or both of the first and second reagent-components.

19. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 18, wherein lactate dehydrogenase and the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity are contained in the same reagent-component.

20. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 16 or 17, which is a two reagent-component system, and contains at least lactate dehydrogenase in a first reagent-component and at least 2oxoglutaric acid in a second reagent-component.

21. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 16, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.

22. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 17, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.

23. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 18, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.

24. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 19, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.

25. (previously presented): The reagent according to claim 20, wherein the substance having an activity of inhibiting a lactate dehydrogenase activity is oxamic acid or a salt thereof.